

Sparta Perspective

By RUTH SHAFER
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The ebb of summer is becoming more noticeable. The sun's rays have a longer slant across the lawn and a deeper golden glow. The brilliant rosy wash coloring the sky at sunset fades more quickly and the deep purple of the western hills fast darkens into charcoal as the late summer dusk rushes into night. Breezes have a sharper edge and carry that special tang of dry leaves and ripening fruit that speaks of autumn.

Then along comes a day like this one—one that started with lovely warm promise and bright sun only to disintegrate too soon into a gray, chilly nonentity of a day that could happen in any season, and often does. Oh well, it is still a beautiful world.

And finally, after years of experimenting with first one spot and then another, I have found the perfect room to call my own. You wouldn't think that would be hard to do in a 16-room house, now would you. Somehow, though, there was always something not just right.

I suppose I didn't have to be quite so fussy but it would seem that I am in good company. Virginia Woolf, the English novelist, wrote a book on the importance of "A Room Of One's Own." (She also said a woman should have money of her own, too. Not a bad idea.) Anyway, I now have a room, which isn't really done yet but enough to work in until it can be completed. There aren't enough bookshelves, of course. There never are and short of owning a bona fide library, I probably never will have enough. But there are more to be built, sometime this

winter. Also, my desk is situated so that I can look out to the hills in the west and, bright day or dark, whatever the season, that is a beautiful view.

All in all it adds up to a happy situation. And it dawned on me the other day as I pattered around in here, just how happy I did feel. It's not just having the room, of course. And I suspect the feeling has been there for some while. I just hadn't taken any notice. The next thing I knew I was sitting there trying to figure out just what happens was—is. I searched through my Bartlett, through several other books that might have some sort of definition, and they all did have, dozens of them. I guess you will have to decide for yourself which definition suits you best, maybe make up your own. For it seems certain, happiness is something different to every person.

Isn't it strange, too, that we so often seem to feel guilty when we realize we've been feeling quite happy. It is like a friend said the other day after commenting that life was going along very pleasantly. "I keep waiting for the phone to ring with news of trouble or

something." And I added, "You wonder how long something so good can last."

No doubt psychologists have plenty of explanations of the reasons behind such statements but I won't go into them. It's beyond my intellectual abilities to understand anyway.

It is enough to know that, in spite of all the problems, of all the misery we all have to cope with, life still does offer much to be happy about.

Most likely, for me at least, it is the accumulation of many small happenings—the enjoyment of a beautiful sunset, the fun of having Owliver trust me enough to eat from my hand, a walk along the

lane to the woods with Duketheduck waddling and squawking companionably beside me. It is living in the county, listening to Mikie laugh so wholeheartedly at something; it is watching Alex become so absorbed in his books and listening to Jon respond with great enthusiasm when his dad asks if he wants to go fishing. And even more, it is knowing all is well with those I love.

Someone named L'Estrange wrote long ago that "It is not the place, nor the condition, but the mind alone that can make anyone happy or miserable."

It would seem to me that is the truth.

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The Federal Communications Commission approved this service on the recommendation of the State Public Service Commission, enabling Rochester Telephone to make it available immediately.

Danville Student In DEC Training

Todd Blanc, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Blanc of 29 Franklin St., has returned from working for the DEC biological station at Cranberry Lake in the Adirondacks.

He took part in a summer work program sponsored by the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University where he will be a junior this fall.

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